NEWS ANALYSIS #1-1151 JULY 23, 1976
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SECRETARY KISSINGER ON KOREA

ANNCR:

VOA NEWS ANALYST RONALD J. DUNLAVEY DISCUSSES THE LATEST AMERICAN CALL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON KOREA:

VOICE:

THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE LAST AMERICAN SOLDIER FROM THAILAND EARLIER THIS WEEK LEAVES THE UNITED STATES FORCE IN SOUTH KOREA AS THE REMAINING AMERICAN COMBAT TROOPS ON THE ASIAN MAINLAND. NOW, SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER---IN A MAJOR SPEECH ON AMERICA'S ASIAN POLICY---HAS SUGGESTED THAT IT'S TIME TO CONSIDER WAYS OF EASING TENSION ON THE TROUBLED PENINSULA.

HE EMPHASIZED---AS HE HAS BEFORE---THAT THERE CAN BE NO QUESTION OF AMERICAN TROOPS BEING WITHDRAWN UNILATERALLY FROM SOUTH KOREA. THAT, HE SAID, WOULD UNDERMINE STABILITY AND HOPES FOR NEGOTIATION. NOR WILL THE UNITED STATES AGREE TO AN UNCONDITIONAL DISSOLUTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND. AND IT WILL NOT NEGOTIATE BEHIND SOUTH KOREA'S BACK. SUCH PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN MADE BY NORTH KOREA. BUT---SAID MR. KISSINGER---THEY ARE COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE.

(OPT) " NO NATION THAT TRULY BELIEVES IN PEACE SHOULD SUPPORT THEM," HE TOLD HIS AUDIENCE. "NO COUNTRY INTERESTED IN GENUINE NON-ALIGNMENT SHOULD LEND ITSELF TO SO ONE-SIDED AN APPROACH"---AN APPARENT REFERENCE TO SOVIET AND CHINESE BACKING OF THE NORTH KOREAN PROPOSALS. (END OPT)

ON THE OTHER HAND, SAID SECRETARY KISSINGER, THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS MUST NOT REMAIN FOREVER FROZEN. AND HE REPEATED THE CALL WHICH THE UNITED STATES MADE LAST SEPTEMBER FOR A CONFERENCE OF NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA, THE UNITED STATES AND THE PEOPLES' REPUBLIC OF CHINA. (OPT) THIS CONFERENCE, HE SUGGESTED, COULD BE HELD IN NEW YORK DURING THE COMING SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY---OR AT ANY OTHER MUTUALLY AGREEABLE PLACE. (END OPT) SUCH A CONFERENCE, SAID MR. KISSINGER, COULD PROVIDE A NEW LEGAL STRUCTURE FOR THE EXISTING ARMISTICE, REPLACE IT WITH MORE PERMANENT ARRANGEMENTS, AND EASE TENSIONS THROUGHOUT ASIA.

THE UNITED STATES POSITION RIGHT ALONG HAS BEEN THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH A NEW LEGAL BASE FOR THE EXISTING ARMISTICE, AND TO REPLACE IT WITH MORE PERMANENT ARRANGEMENTS. WASHINGTON HAS ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT IT IS WILLING TO SUPPORT MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNITED NATIONS FOR BOTH SOUTH AND NORTH KOREA---ALTHOUGH WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THEIR EVENTUAL UNIFICATION. BUT NORTH KOREA INSISTS THAT SOUTH KOREA MUST BE EXCLUDED FROM ANY DISCUSSIONS---AND MOSCOW AND PEKING HAVE NOT ONLY ENDORSED THIS POSITION BUT HAVE EVEN BLOCKED MOVES TO HAVE BOTH SOUTH AND NORTH KOREA ADMITTED TO THE UNITED NATIONS. (OPT.) MR. KISSINGER OBVIOUSLY HAD THIS SUPPORT BY THE BIGGER COMMUNIST POWERS IN MIND WHEN HE DECLARED IN HIS SPEECH THAT "IF NORTH KOREA'S ALLIES ARE PREPARED TO IMPROVE THEIR POSITIONS WITH SOUTH KOREA, THEN---AND ONLY THEN---WILL WE BE PREPARED TO TAKE SIMILAR STEPS TOWARD NORTH KOREA." (END OPT.)

LAST YEAR'S AMERICAN CALL FOR A CONFERENCE WAS UNSUCCESSFUL. NORTH KOREA STUBBORNLY CONTINUES TO INSIST THAT SOUTH KOREA BE EXCLUDED FROM ANY NEGOTIATIONS---EVEN THOUGH IT CONTAINS TWO-THIRDS OF THE POPULATION OF KOREA AND HAS OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH NEARLY A HUNDRED COUNTRIES. THE BEST HOPE FOR A MEANINGFUL CONFERENCE, THEN, WOULD SEEM TO LIE WITH THE WILLINGNESS OF MOSCOW AND PEKING TO URGE ON NORTH KOREA A MORE REALISTIC POSITION. OTHERWISE, THE U.N. FACES ANOTHER STERILE DEBATE ON THE ISSUE AT THE NEXT SESSION. AND THE UNDESIRABLE IMPASSE ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA COULD CONTINUE INDEFINITELY.